



Yuma County, Arizona  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Interpretation File

FROM: Paul Melcher, Planning Director *pm*

SUBJECT: Interpretation of Room in relation to the definition of a *Guest House* and *Guest Room* of the Yuma County Zoning Ordinance

DATE: July 28, 2008

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The term *room* is not defined in Section 210.00 of the Yuma County Zoning Ordinance, leading to ambiguity when determining the difference between applications for guest rooms and houses. For the purposes of this interpretation, I am utilizing two dictionaries to provide a concise definition.

According to definition 2a. of the Webster's II Collegiate Dictionary, a *room* is defined as, *An area separated by walls or partitions from other similar parts of the structure or building in which it is located.* In addition, the Merriam-Webster Dictionary online (2007-2008) defines *room* as, 3 a: *a partitioned part of the inside of a building; especially: such a part used as a lodging.* Both of these definitions support the concept that a room (singular) exists within a building by virtue of it being partitioned; or in other words, the room is created because it shares common walls with other areas within the building or structure.

As such, it is also my determination that a *Guest Room* as defined in Section 210.00 of the Yuma County Ordinance is a single room that shares a common wall or walls with the principal dwelling unit. The term *Principal Dwelling Unit* is currently defined under Section 210.00.

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